

**Governor's Upper Yellowstone River Task Force**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**July 18, 2000**  
**City/County Community Room**  
**Meeting began at 7:00 p.m.**

**I.     Introductions**

**Members Present:**

John Bailey, Chair	Jerry O'Hair
Mike Atwood, Vice Chair	Rod Siring
Roy Aserlind	Bob Wiltshire
Michelle Goodwine	Ellen Woodbury
David Haug	Jim Woodhull

**Others Present:**

John Logan, Ex-Officio	Burt Williams	Eric Compas
Allan Steinle, Ex-Officio	Jay Booth	Dean Yashan
Stuart Lehman, Ex-Officio	Lionel Dicharry	Jerry Johnson
Stan Sternberg, Ex-Officio	Scott Zimmerman	Chuck Dalby
Joel Tohtz, Ex-Officio	Ron Hoagland	Jeanne-Marie Souvigney
Terri Marceron, Ex-Officio	Rodney Schwartz	Peter Ismert
Laurence Siroky, Ex-Officio	Tim Bryggman	Duncan Patten
Liz Galli-Noble, Coordinator	Pete Story	Adam Craig
Amy Miller, Administrative Secretary	Jim Robinson	Mary Clement
	Will Rizzo	Dennis Glick

**II.    Prior Meeting Minutes**

The April 18, 2000 and May 16, 2000 minutes were approved as written.

**III.   Socio-Economic Subcommittee**

Mike Atwood, subcommittee chair, introduced the socio-economic subcommittee members: Michelle Goodwine, Roy Aserlind, David Haug, and Ellen Woodbury. Tim Bryggman (an economist with the Department of Natural Resource and Conservation) was also introduced. Atwood explained that the subcommittee has been discussing a possible, two-phased approach to a socio-economic assessment for the past two months.

Tim Bryggman presented Phase I, an "economic community portrait" focusing on trend information (base-line, existing, County-level, census data) at this Task Force meeting. The subcommittee recommended that Phase II of the assessment (more focused data and specific studies) be accomplished through a contracted Request for Proposal (RFP). A copy of a draft RFP will be presented to the Task Force at the August meeting for review and discussion.

Following Tim's presentation, Michelle Goodwine presented examples of economic information specific to the community's housing market—the type of information that cannot be gathered in a Phase I approach.

**IV.    Financial Updates**

**Grant Spending report:**

Amy Miller reported on the following to the Task Force:

Start-Up Grant-DEQ

Grant amount:	\$49,138.00	Spent:	\$21,311.16	Balance:	\$27,826.84
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319 Grant (1)-DEQ

Grant amount:	\$40,000.00	Spent:	\$40,000.00	Balance:	\$0.00
RDGP Grant-DNRC					
Grant amount:	\$299,940.00	Spent:	\$92,077.73	Balance:	\$207,862.27
319 Grant (2)-DEQ					
Grant amount:	\$58,000.00	Spent:	\$0.00	Balance:	\$58,000.00
Fire Workshop-DNRC					
Grant amount:	\$1,000.00	Spent:	\$960.99	Balance:	\$39.01
Riparian Trend Analysis Study-DNRC					
Grant amount:	\$6,500.00	Spent:	\$0.00	Balance:	\$6,500.00
Watershed Upland Study-DNRC					
Grant amount:	\$10,000.00	Spent:	\$370.00	Balance:	\$9,630.00

#### **Funding updates:**

##### **(1) *Watershed Planning Assistance Grant***

The Task Force received \$10,000 from the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), which will help fund the Watershed Land Use Study. Liz Galli-Noble thanked the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) for their participation in the study. NRCS has pulled together a team of eight employees who have volunteered to help with the ground truthing tasks in the study.

##### **(2) *US Army Corps of Engineers--Section 22 Program***

Liz Galli-Noble is working with the Corps to apply for funds from their section 22 program fiscal year 2000; the funding requires a 50 percent non-federal match. The Watershed Planning Assistance Grant is a possible match for the Corps funding, and DNRC and Park Conservation District have approved the funds to be used as match. In addition, the funding will need to be spent by September 30, 2000. Liz reported that for fiscal year 2001 the Corps could have \$50,000 available for the Task Force through the Section 22 Program.

##### **(3) *Approval to apply for a new 319 Grant***

Liz asked for approval to write a new 319 Grant requesting funds for outreach and education, and the coordinator position. The deadline for the grant is August 31, 2000. Liz will present a draft of the grant at the August meeting for Task Force review and approval.

**Rod Siring made a motion to approve that Liz Galli-Noble write a new 319-Grant. The motion was seconded by Ellen Woodbury. The motion passed unanimously.**

##### **(4) *RDGP #1 contract rewrite***

Liz Galli-Noble and Amy Miller are working with the DNRC on rewriting contracts for the first RDGP grant. The contracts will reflect the shift of funding (\$60,000) from the USGS Hydrology Study to the University of Montana Riparian Trend Analysis Study. The Montana Department of Transportation has provided additional funding for the USGS for the Hydrology Study, freeing-up \$60,000.

##### **(5) *HB #223 Grant***

The Task Force received \$6,500 from DNRC Watershed Planning Assistance grant for the Riparian Trend Analysis Study. To date, the budget for the Riparian Trend Analysis Study is \$115,000, with \$101,500 of funding secured.

##### **(6) *EPA--River Network, Watershed Assistance Grant***

Liz asked for approval to write a River Network Grant to request additional funds for the Watershed Land Use Study. The grant deadline is August 15, 2000, which is before the next Task Force meeting. The Task Force

discussed the issue and deadline constraint.

**Roy Aserlind made a motion to approve that Liz Galli-Noble write a River Network Grant, getting final approval from John Bailey instead of the entire Task Force. It was seconded by Jim Woodhull. The motion passed unanimously.**

Liz reported that the Task Force did not receive the EPA—Regional Geographic Initiative Grant.

## **V. TMDL Presentation**

Stuart Lehman, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Task Force member, did an informational/educational presentation on Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), also referred to as a water quality restoration plan. A TMDL is a part of a plan to address water quality problems. The TMDL process is flexible. This process works best when local people get together to understand and identify the problems in their watershed. Local people choose their own solutions, with the approval of a state water quality agency and the EPA. Congress has charged states to develop TMDLs for priority watersheds. In order to effectively develop a TMDL process and set TMDLs for critical areas, it is important that private citizens and landowners, community groups, land management agencies and local governments all understand TMDLs and the TMDL process.

## **VI. Yellowstone River Effort Updates**

Several recent events focusing on the upper and full Yellowstone River were reported on:

### **1. *Senator Baucus and Secretary Westphal Livingston visit, July 6 (Mayor's Landing and Public Meeting)***

Senator Baucus helped secure \$500,000 through Congressional appropriations. The funding will be given to the US Army Corps of Engineers to be used for the entire Yellowstone River. Senators Burns and Baucus have requested an additional \$1.15 million for Yellowstone River efforts. The Task Force could receive up to \$650,000 through the Corps to continue the studies on the upper Yellowstone River.

John Bailey expressed to Senator Baucus and Secretary Westphal that the Task Force will need more funding once the data is collected. Data will need to be analyzed, and funding and assistance will be required to perform that analysis.

### **2. *Upper Yellowstone River tour with EPA Denver and the Corps***

John Bailey and Liz Galli-Noble took the following individuals on a river tour: Rodney Schwartz (Corps, Omaha), Peter Ismert (EPA, Denver), and Alan Steinle (Corps, Helena). The informal tour took place on July 16 and was conducted to help project partners better understand the Upper Yellowstone River Study Area and distinguish between the diverse groups working on the river.

### **3. *Collaboration with the Yellowstone River Conservation District Council (YRCDC) and Yellowstone Forum***

- (a) The Task Force has been invited to attend meetings with the YRCDC and the Conservation Forum (a group of conservation/environmental groups based in the Billings area) focusing on collaborative efforts along the Yellowstone River. Liz had attended a couple of those meetings and was reporting back to the Task Force. Originally, Liz had planned to present a list of common goals and objectives that the two groups had developed, but because the two groups felt them to be premature, Liz did not present the list. The two groups are trying to come together on long-term Yellowstone River issues. John Bailey asked Liz to be available when needed, to communicate with these groups and explain the Task Force investigation in the upper Yellowstone.

(b) Mary Ellen Wolfe (Montana Watercourse Director) through an EPA, RGI grant is helping the YRCDC and Forum to coordinate full river activities and prepare for an Inter-Agency Round Table meeting in fall 2000. John Bailey explained how events had developed over the past month, and asked Task Force members: To what extent should the Task Force get involved in the Round Table meeting? John Bailey feels that the Task Force needs direction from the YRCDC before our role is understood.

**4. *NRCS Yellowstone River Project***

Senator Max Baucus requested help from Shirley Gammon, NRCS State Conservationist, with issues along the Yellowstone River. NRCS has agreed to hold "Listening Meetings" along the river to gather information from landowners on what NRCS can better offer in the way of programs.

**5. *Annual review of Task Force Coordinator***

John Bailey announced that a subcommittee (John Bailey, Terri Marceron, Mike Atwood, David Haug, Ellen Woodbury, and Brant Oswald) would complete an annual review of Liz Galli-Noble in August.

**VII. Schedule Future Task Force Meetings**

Liz Galli-Noble would like Task Force members to call her at 222-3701 if they will be unable to attend scheduled meetings.

Next Task Force meetings are:

August 24, 2000 at the City/County Courthouse, Community Room at 7:00 p.m.

September 19, 2000 at the City/County Courthouse, Community Room at 7:00 p.m.

**VIII. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.**